

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PDEV IS
SUBJ: GUSH EMUNIM ANNOUNCES MASTER PLAN FOR WEST BANK
SETTLEMENT

REF.: TEL AVIV 5142

1. AT AN APRIL 24 PRESS CONFERENCE GUSH EMUNIM LEADERS
PORAT AND SHOFAT ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD RECENTLY
SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS A MASTER PLAN TO SETTLE
A MILLION JEWS ON THE WEST BANK WITHIN 25 YEARS. THE
GUSH LEADERS DID NOT PROVIDE DETAILS OF THEIR PLAN,
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ALTHOUGH THEY STATED THAT THE FIRST STAGE INCLUDES
A FOUR YEAR PROGRAM COINCIDING WITH THE PRESENT GOVERN-
MENT'S TERM OF OFFICE. STAGE TWO OF THE PLAN IS TO TURN
TEMPORARY SETTLEMENTS INTO PERMANENT ONES, PLANNED AND
BUDGETED ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD SETTLEMENT CRITERIA.

3. ACCORDING TO THE GUSH LEADERS, THEY HAVE FOUR TO

SIX NUCLEI READY TO SETTLE AND THEY DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT APPROVE NEW SETTLEMENTS FOR THEM. THEY COMPLAINED ABOUT A SHORTAGE OF HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON THE WEST BANK FOR 500 FAMILIES READY TO SETTLE AND BLAMED THIS SITUATION ON THE LACK OF A WELL THOUGHT-OUT AND EXECUTED PLAN FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

4. THE GUSH LEADERS STRESSED THAT SHILO WOULD BE A TEST CASE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SETTLEMENT INTENTIONS. THEY WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MEET THEIR DEMAND THAT SHILO BE RECOGNIZED AS A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. PORAT AND SHOFAT HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A FAVORABLE DECISION BY MID-AUGUST.

5. EMBOFF SPOKE TO SLONIM OF THE GUSH, WHO STATED THAT THE MASTER PLAN, PUT TOGETHER BY PORAT, WAS NOT NEW. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO PROVIDE EMBOFF WITH A COPY. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS LESS THAN OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THE GOI'S APPROVAL OF THE MASTER PLAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT PORAT, WHO ALWAYS ACCENTUATES THE POSITIVE, MAY HAVE BEEN TOO OPTIMISTIC IN DESCRIBING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THE GOI'S LIKELY RESPONSE TO THE PLAN. REGARDING SHILO, HE STATED THAT THE GOI HAS STILL NOT TOLD THE SETTLERS TO LEAVE. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE A "DANGEROUS" DEVELOPMENT IF THIS OCCURRED, BUT THE GUSH WOULD CROSS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRIDGE WHEN IT CAME TO IT.

6. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CALLED BY THE GUSH IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICIAL OPENING ON APRIL 25 OF THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENT OF KARNEI SHOMRON.. (THE SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS HAS ACTUALLY BEEN AT THE SITE SINCE JAN 1.) AT A SEPARATE NEWS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KARNEI SHOMRON GROUP STATED THAT THIS WAS A CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT AND SHARON HAD GIVEN HIM THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE SETTLERS WERE NOT MOVING INTO A MILITARY CAMP. (THIS IS ONE OF THE SETTLEMENTS WHICH THE CABINET DECIDED WOULD BE SET UP WITHIN A MILITARY INSTALLATION). HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE SITE IS A MILITARY CAMP.

7. COMMENT: THE GUSH IS CARRYING OUT A DOUBLE-BARRELED CAMPAIGN TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO STEP UP JEWISH SETTLEMENT ON THE WEST BANK. ON THE ONE HAND, IT IS GOING ALL OUT IN PUBLICLY SUPPORTING BEGIN AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT POLITICAL LINE. TODAY'S KIRYAT ARBA AND JERUSALEM MASS MEETINGS (BEGIN WILL

ATTEND THE ONE AT KIRYAT ARBA) ARE INTENDED TO SERVE
THIS PURPOSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GUSH IN ANNOUNCING
A MASTER PLAN OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE FOR PLANNING PUR-
POSES HOPES TO PRESSURE BEGIN INTO ADOPTING A MORE ACTIVE
SETTLEMENT POLICY. THE GUSH WILL BE HOLDING RALLIES
IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT ON THE WEST
BANK AT KARNEI SHOMRON ON APRIL 25 AND AT NABI SALAH AND
SHILO ON APRIL 26. VIETS

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